

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KARACH 01529 231318Z

51

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04

CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-07 SWF-02 AID-20 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 DRC-01

/148 W

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P 231136Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8249

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL LAHORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KARACHI 1529

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, ELAB, PK

SUBJECT: KARACHI PORT STRIKE ENDS

REF: KARACHI 1507

1. KARACHI DOCK LABORERS RESUMED WORK EARLY JULY 23 FOLLOWING
A RADIO PAKISTAN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT GOP OFFICIALS HAD CONFIRMED

THAT THE WORKERS WERE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE INCREASE IN THE COST
OF LIVING ALLOWANCE (RS. 50 OR \$5.00 A MONTH) MENTIONED IN THE
JUNE 8 NATIONAL BUDGET. THEIR INELIGIBILITY AROSE FROM WAGE
INCREASES GRANTED THEM IN AUGUST 1973 AND MARCH 1974. UNION
LEADERS, WHO HAD MAINTAINED THAT THE STRIKE WAS SPONTANEOUS AND
NOT UNION-SANCTIONED, PLEDGED THAT THE MEN WOULD RETURN TO THE
DOCKS.

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2. COMMENT: THE STRIKE, SETTLED ALMOST AS SPEEDILY AS IT BEGAN,

SEEMED A QUICK MANEUVER FOR PETTY ECONOMIC (AND POLITICAL) GAINS. ONE SHIPPING AGENCY SOURCE NOTED THAT THE WORKERS, ABOUT 75 PERCENT OF WHOM ARE NOW PATHANS, ARE LED BY A PATHAN-DOMINATED AND NAP-LEANING UNION. NEITHER THE WORKERS NOR THEIR LEADERS WERE AVERSE TO A PLOY WHICH MIGHT YIELD THEM HIGHER WAGES AND EMBARRASS PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO. A KARACHI PORT TRUST (KPT) OFFICIAL PRIVATELY DISMISSED AS "EYEWASH" UNION LEADERS' CLAIMS THAT THE STRIKE WAS SPONTANEOUS. HE NOTED THAT THE LEADERS HAD ORIGINALLY DEMANDED THAT BHUTTO COME IN PERSON TO TELL THE LABORERS THEY WERE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE ALLOWANCE. IN THE END, THE KPT MAN SAID, THE STRIKE HAD BEEN SETTLED "TO OUR SATISFACTION". HE DID NOT MENTION WHAT THREATS OR INDUCEMENTS HAD PRODUCED THIS RESULT.

BRYANT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR STRIKES, PORT FACILITIES, LONGSHOREMEN, COST OF LIVING WAGE ADJUSTMENT
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005